

**U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management
Royal Gorge Field Office
3028 E. Main Street
Canon City, CO 81212**

CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION

NUMBER: DOI-BLM-CO-F02-2014-066 CX

CASEFILE/PROJECT NUMBER (optional):

PROJECT NAME: Fremont County Free Use Permit for Immediate Road Repairs

PLANNING UNIT: Collegiate/Sangre Subregion #2

LEGAL DESCRIPTION: Colorado, Fremont County, 6th Principal Meridian, T20S, R73W, Sec. 5 and Sec. 6

APPLICANT: Fremont County

DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED ACTION The proposed action was requested by Fremont County, in response to recently damaged public roadways that require immediate repair (Figure 1). Fremont County intends to stabilize and build back CR 28 (Road Gulch), where the recent heavy rains on July 12-13, 2014 caused large areas of erosion on the shoulder and within the lanes on the south side of the road. Due to the size of eroded areas, the request involves utilizing boulders located on BLM nearby to armor these areas. The boulders will be picked off of the surface by a track hoe and placed in a loader bucket. The loader will carry the boulders to where they are needed along CR 28. The boulders are going to be collected from the three areas outlined in red in Figure 2.

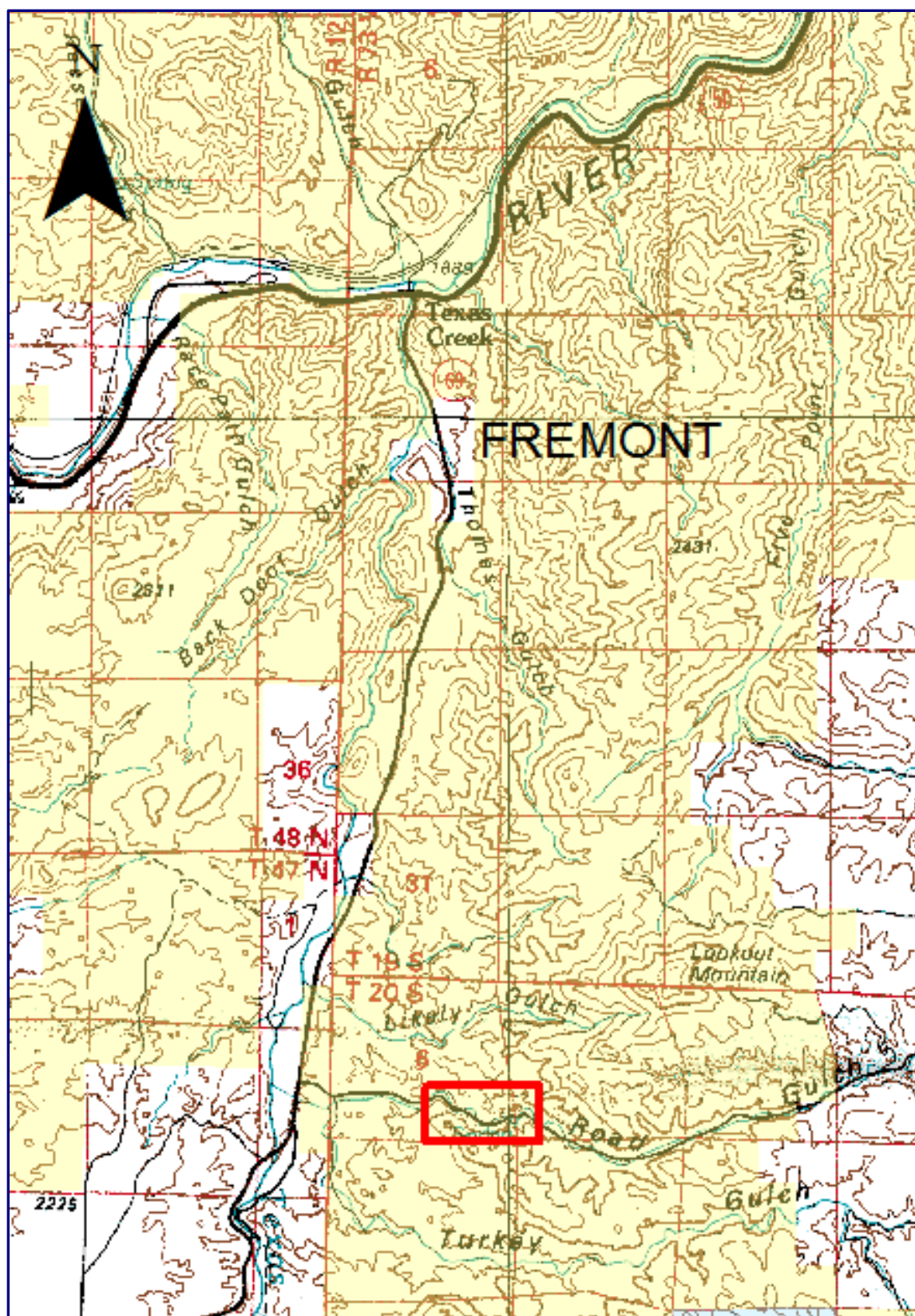


Figure 1

Exclusion Criteria	YES	NO
1. Have significant impacts on public health or safety.		X
2. Have significant impacts on such natural resources and unique geographic characteristics as historic or cultural resources; park, recreation, or refuge lands; wilderness areas; lands with wilderness characteristics; wild or scenic rivers; national natural landmarks; sole or principal drinking water aquifers; prime farmlands; wetlands; floodplains; national monuments; migratory birds; and other ecologically significant or critical areas.		X
3. Have highly controversial environmental effects or involve unresolved conflicts concerning alternative uses of available resources.		X
4. Have highly uncertain and potentially significant environmental effects or involve unique or unknown environmental risks.		X
5. Establish a precedent for future action or represent a decision in principle about future actions with potentially significant environmental effects.		X
6. Have a direct relationship to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulatively significant environmental effects.		X
7. Have significant impacts on properties listed, or eligible for listing, on the National Register of Historic Places as determined by either the bureau or office.		X
8. Have significant impacts on species listed, or proposed to be listed, on the List of Endangered or Threatened Species, or have significant impacts on designated Critical Habitat for these species.		X
9. Violate a Federal law, or a State, local or tribal law or requirement imposed for the protection of the environment.		X
10. Have a disproportionately high and adverse effect on low income or minority populations.		X
11. Limit access to and ceremonial use of Indian sacred sites on Federal lands by Indian religious practitioners or significantly adversely affect the physical integrity of such sacred sites.		X
12. Contribute to the introduction, continued existence, or spread of noxious weeds or non-native invasive species known to occur in the area or actions that may promote the introduction, growth, or expansion of the range of such species.		X

INTERDISCIPLINARY TEAM REVIEW			
NAME	TITLE	AREA OF RESPONSIBILITY	Initials/date
Matt Rustand	Wildlife Biologist	Terrestrial Wildlife, T&E,	MR, 7/28/2014

		Migratory Birds	
Jeff Williams	Range Management Spec.	Range, Vegetation, Farmland	----
Chris Cloninger	Range Management Spec.	Range, Vegetation, Farmland	----
John Lamman	Range Management Spec.	Range, Vegetation, Farmland, Weeds	----
Dave Gilbert	Fisheries Biologist	Aquatic Wildlife, Riparian/Wetlands	DG, 7/28/14
Stephanie Carter	Geologist	Minerals, Paleontology, Waste Hazardous or Solid	----
Melissa Smeins	Geologist	Minerals, Paleontology	----
John Smeins	Hydrologist	Hydrology, Water Quality/Rights, Soils	----
Ty Webb	Prescribed Fire Specialist	Air Quality	----
Jeff Covington	Cadastral Surveyor	Cadastral Survey	----
Kalem Lenard	Outdoor Recreation Planner	Recreation, Wilderness, LWCs, Visual, ACEC, W&S Rivers,	----
John Nahomenuk	River Manager	Recreation, Wilderness, LWCs, Visual, ACEC, W&S Rivers	----
Ken Reed	Forester	Forestry	----
Monica Weimer	Archaeologist	Cultural, Native American	MMW, 7/29/14
Michael Troyer	Archaeologist	Cultural, Native American	-----
Greg Valladares	Realty Specialist	Realty	----
Steve Cunningham	Law Enforcement Ranger	Law Enforcement	----
TBD	Fire Management Officer	Fire	----

REMARKS:

Multiple cultural resources inventories have been conducted in the area of potential effect (CR-050-RG-82-57 N, CR-050-RG-86-2 N, CR-050-RG-87-15 N, and CR-RG-12-67 P). Although cultural resources were found near the area of potential effect, no sites determined to be eligible for the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) were found. Therefore, the proposed project will have no effect on any historic properties (those eligible for the NRHP).

Native American Religious Concerns: No possible traditional cultural properties were located during the cultural resources inventory (see above). There is no other known evidence that suggests the project area holds special significance for Native Americans.

Threatened and Endangered Species: There are no records of any federally listed or BLM sensitive species within or near the project area. The Proposed Action will not result in impacts to TES species.

Migratory Birds: To be in compliance with the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA) and the Memorandum of Understanding between BLM and USFWS required by Executive Order 13186, BLM must avoid actions, where possible, that result in a "take" of migratory birds. Pursuant to BLM Instruction Memorandum 2008-050, to reduce impacts to Birds of Conservation Concern (BCC), no habitat disturbance (removal of vegetation such as timber, brush, or grass) is allowed

during the periods of May 15 - July 15, the breeding and brood rearing season for most Colorado migratory birds. The provision will not apply to completion activities in disturbed areas that were initiated prior to May 15 and continue into the 60-day period.

An exception to this timing limitation will be granted if nesting surveys conducted no more than one week prior to vegetation-disturbing activities indicate no nesting within 30 meters (100 feet) of the area to be disturbed. Surveys shall be conducted by a qualified breeding bird surveyor between sunrise and 10:00 a.m. under favorable conditions.

COMPLIANCE PLAN (optional):

NAME OF PREPARER: Stephanie Carter

SUPERVISORY REVIEW: /s/ Jay M. Raiford

NAME OF ENVIRONMENTAL COORDINATOR: /s/ Martin Weimer

DATE: 7/29/14

DECISION AND RATIONALE: I have reviewed this Categorical Exclusion and have decided to implement the Proposed Action.

This action is listed in the Department Manual as an action that may be categorically excluded. I have evaluated the action relative to the 10 criteria listed above and have determined that it does not represent an exception and is, therefore, categorically excluded from further environmental analysis.

SIGNATURE OF AUTHORIZED OFFICIAL: /s/ Keith E. Berger
Keith E. Berger, Field Manager

DATE SIGNED: 7/30/14